

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for processing a telephone call comprising:
a wire line telephone system adapted to receive a called number, to dial said called number, to determine a forwarding telephone number associated with said called number in response to a busy or no answer signal at said called number, and to call said forwarding telephone number. ²⁰² _{cl 7, 15 - 18}
2. The system of claim 1 wherein said wire line telephone system comprises:
a service switching point connected to a plurality of subscriber locations, each of said subscriber locations including a respective wire line telephone;
a first signal transfer point adapted to communicate with said service switching point; and
a service control point adapted to communicate with said first signal transfer point, said service control point containing a database.
3. The system of claim 2 wherein said service control point is adapted to determine said forwarding telephone number associated with said called number, and command said service switching point to dial said forwarding telephone number.
4. The system of claim 2 wherein said wire line telephone system further comprises a data link connected to said first signal transfer point and adapted to communicate with a wireless telephone system.
5. The system of claim 2 wherein said wire line telephone system further comprises a service node connected to said service switching point through a second data link, and connected to a service control point through a third data link.

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✓ 6. The system of claim 5 wherein said service node is further adapted to provide an indication that said service control point has commanded said service switching point to dial said forwarding telephone number.

✓ 7. The system of claim 6 wherein said service node is further adapted to provide a prompt before said service control point commands said service switching point to dial said forwarding telephone number.

✓ 8. The system of claim 2 wherein said database includes a subscription list.

✓ 9. The system of claim 2 wherein said database of said service control point comprises a programmable telephone number table that includes a first telephone number and at least one next telephone number.

✓ 10. The system of claim 9 wherein said service node is adapted to allow modification of said programmable telephone number table.

✓ 11. The system of claim 10 wherein said service node is adapted to allow modification of said programmable telephone number table using one of telephone keypad commands and an Internet website.

✓ 12. The system of claim 2 wherein said next telephone number is a wireless number and said service control point is adapted to determine an on/off status of said wireless number.

✓ 13. The system of claim 2 wherein said service control point comprises a programmable telephone number table that includes a subscriber telephone number, a forwarding telephone number, and a plurality of preferred caller telephone numbers.

14. A system for processing a telephone call comprising:

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a wireless telephone system adapted to receive a called number, to dial said called number, to determine a forwarding telephone number associated with said called number in response to a busy or no answer signal at said called number, and to call said forwarding telephone number.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein said wireless telephone system comprises:

a home location register adapted to communicate with a mobile switching center;

said mobile switching center adapted to communicate with a plurality of cell sites;

said plurality of cell sites adapted to communicate with a plurality of wireless telephones;

a signal transfer point adapted to communicate with said mobile switching centers and said home location registers; and

a service control point adapted to communicate with said signal transfer point.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein said wireless telephone system further comprises a service node adapted to communicate with said signal transfer point and to communicate with said mobile switching center.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein said wireless telephone system further comprises a data link connected to said signal transfer point and adapted to communicate with a wire line telephone system.

18. A method for processing a telephone call comprising:
receiving a called party telephone number from a calling party number;
determining whether said called party number is included in a data storage device in response to a busy or no answer signal at said called party number;
determining a forwarding telephone number associated with said called party

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number; and

dialing said forwarding telephone number.

19. The method of claim 18 further comprising determining whether said calling party number matches a preferred calling party number included in said data storage device.

20. The method of claim 18 wherein the determining that said called number is included in the data storage device further comprises determining that said called number is included in a programmable telephone number table.

21. The method of claim 18 further comprising indicating that the forwarding telephone number is being dialed.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein said indicating that the forwarding telephone number is being dialed comprises indicating with one of an audible voice notification and a visible indication.

23. The method of claim 18 further comprising providing a prompt before said dialing said forwarding telephone number.

24. The method of claim 18 further comprising determining whether said forwarding telephone number is a wireless telephone number and determining whether said wireless telephone number has an on status.

25. The method of claim 18 further comprising determining whether said called party number is a subscriber before said determining a forwarding telephone number associated with said called party number.

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